PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 56 No. 25 December 11, 2024 Suggested Donation $1

LA FORUM

FOR WORKERS' POWER, NOT BOSSES' ELECTIONS

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 3—Don't Vote, Revolt! This was the theme for a gathering of workers and students in Los Angeles at a forum the weekend before the election. This message was not only received by our base, but embraced. Participants were already open to the ideas of voting as a big con, but were thoroughly convinced by the end of the evening. These workers will be needed to help build a worldwide, multiracial fightback for a communist world under the Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

Liberals will kill our class

The L.A. PLP education club, including two brand new members, developed and led the event. We created four sections, starting with the idea that liberals are the main danger for the working class. In this section participants were able to read about different policies and quotes from the most recent and popular liberal politicians. The gallery walk included information about Clinton's assaults on social welfare programs, Obama's droning in the Middle East and mass deportation policies, Biden's support of the genocide in Palestine and his push for profit over the climate, and finally Harris' support for police and "tough-on-crime" policies. Everyone circled through the gallery and took note of their notices and wonders. During the share-out, base members pointed out that the same groups of workers who Democrats claim to represent– Black and Latin, LGBTQ, immigrants – are the same groups against whom the liberals launch the sharpest attacks.

Even in cases where the working class has been able to create propositions and get them passed through the popular vote, they have eventually been overturned through the bosses' courts

Workers fought for bosses' reforms

In the second section of the evening, we discussed the CHALLENGE article "Elections: Capitalist myth vs working-class truth" in small groups. Each breakout was responsible for reporting back to the collective on dispelling one common myth. These included the working-class victories of Social Security commonly attributed to Franklin D. Roosevelt, but actually won by the Communist Party, the Civil Rights Act giving credit to LBJ when Black workers led years of fightback to attain it, as well as the Vietnam War and South Africa. The share outs ensured all participants had a new perspective on these four common myths.

Then we shifted to a discussion on the truths about propositions. In states like California, the bosses convince the working class that they have power through legislation because anyone can put forward a proposition for the state to

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049)
published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals.
1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals,
GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202
December 11, 2024 • Volume 56 No. 25

Editorial

Imperialist rivalry sharpens, U.S. fascism rises

As the global crisis of capitalism drives the bosses toward fascism and war, the bloody clash between Russia and U.S.-backed Ukraine is escalating by the week. Amid speculation that president-elect Donald Trump might try to force a peace deal on Vladimir Putin's terms, a body blow to NATO, North Korean troops massed alongside Russian forces in the Kursk border region. In response, lame duck President Joe Biden gave his blessing for Ukraine to launch British-made missiles deep into Russian territory. Russia upped the ante with a threat to lower their threshold for using nuclear weapons (NY Times, 11/19), and then attacked Ukraine with a ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear payload (Reuters, 11/22).

While we can't predict where or when the next world war will start, three things are clear. First, the collapse of the old liberal world order has ushered in a period of dangerous instability and chaos. Second, the U.S. rulers are both deeply divided and in steep decline as they struggle to stave off their imperialist rivals in Russia and China. Third, the imperialist bosses' vicious dog fights are lose-lose propositions for the international working class. To date, official estimates count close to 200,000 workers–conscripted soldiers and civilians–killed in the inter-imperialist proxy war in Ukraine (economist.com, 11/26).

For the international working class, there is only one solution to the madness and carnage of capitalism: communist revolution. We need fighters to turn the guns around and choose to fight for a borderless communist world led by Progressive Labor Party!

Inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens after U.S. election

As the unpredictable "America First" Trump prepares to take office, the main-wing U.S. rulers–the Big Fascists of finance capital–are scrambling to keep on board their European allies, who have already invested over $100 billion in the Ukraine bloodbath. While France and Britain backed Ukraine's missile strikes in Russia, Germany has refused to deliver its own long-range missiles to the cause (politico.eu, 11/18). Polish Prime Minister Donal Tusk warned that the escalation posed a "real and serious threat of global war" (Politico, 11/22). This shows the Big Fascists' desperation and disregard for the lives of millions of workers - who will ultimately pay with their lives.

Meanwhile, China is pressing its case as a more reliable ally than the U.S. At last week's G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, President Xi Jinping promoted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and strengthened a bilateral relationship with Brazil (aljazeera.com, 11/20). In a pointed contrast to Trump's threats to raise U.S. tariffs, Xi promised open trade and benefits for emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (New York Times, 11/20). Alongside their carrots, the Chinese capitalist bosses are also sharpening their sticks. They are outpacing the U.S. in arms manufacturing and now boast the largest blue-water navy in the world (Foreign Affairs, 10/2). In September, China tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile in the Pacific Ocean since the 1980s (AP, 9/26), While the Chinese bosses are struggling at home with slowing growth and a debt crisis in their housing sector, they still have a big advantage over their U.S. rivals: a more disciplined and united ruling class that is further down the road to full-blown fascism.

The current period's proxy wars, trade wars, arms buildups, unstable alliances, and dramatic shifts in economic power are reminiscent of the years leading up to World War I, when more than 20 million workers were slaughtered for the rulers' profits. Compelled by the vicious, zero-sum competition of capitalism, the bosses are always being driven toward the next world war, whether they are ready for it or not.

But just as workers are now being won or coerced to kill their class brothers and sisters on the other side of made-up borders, they can also be won to kill a system that has no regard for their lives. As they develop an internationalist, antiracist, class-conscious outlook, workers can be organized into a mass party to smash the bosses' profit system and build a world run by and for the working class.

Bipartisan rising fascism in the U.S.

Global volatility and the split within the U.S. ruling class will bring even sharper attacks on workers in the U.S. With less of a stake in liberal democracy, the Small Fascist bosses behind Trump (see glossary, page 6) are using him to accelerate the rise of fascism. In most cases, they are building on a foundation laid by the liberal racists of the Democratic Party over the last thirty years. Echoing Bill Clinton's work-or-die welfare reform, Republicans are pushing Medicaid work requirements and spending cuts that could strip millions of workers and children of their healthcare (NYT, 11/20). Following up on the Biden administration's threats to slash aid to colleges that allow anti-Zionist, anti-genocide protests, Trump is vowing to eliminate both aid and accreditation (Jerusalem Post, 11/14).

Moving forward with Trump's nazi plan for mass deportations of undocumented workers, arch-racist "border czar" Tom Homan has jumped on a Texas rancher's offer of 1,400 acres for immigrant concentration camps (Texas Tribune, 11/19). Citing an 1807 law for suppressing "insurrection" or "domestic violence," Trump is already pushing for the U.S. military to round up migrating workers for detention and expulsion (NY Times, 11/18). The soon-to-be Klansman-in-Chief will inherit a headstart on anti-immigrant policy and infrastructure, thanks to Biden's assault on asylum and the border cages built under Barack Obama (cnn.com, 7/13/19).

Fight back!

From Ukraine to Gaza to the U.S., we need multiracial unity to stand up and fight back against these brutal attacks. We must expose the capitalist system as a bosses' dictatorship that can never serve the needs of our class. Under capitalism, mass murder, racism, and sexism are essential elements of the bosses' pursuit of profit and power. Our only alternative is communism, a dictatorship of the working class.

The current period is dangerous to be sure. We have a long road to travel to build a mass communist party, but it's also a period of huge opportunity. While Trump's fear-mongering and scapegoating found traction among more workers than before, the winner of the 2024 U.S. presidential election–in a landslide–was "none of the above." Where Trump got around 77 million votes and liberal misleader Kamala Harris around 75 million, close to 90 million eligible voters didn't bother to go to the polls (usnews.com, 11/15)--and that doesn't include the millions of undocumented workers or felons convicted by the bosses' racist criminal injustice system.

In short, there is a great mass of workers who have lost all confidence that capitalism can make their lives any better. It's our job to transform their cynicism and passivity into class consciousness and organized fightback against the rulers' rotten death machine. We must struggle together by joining and building the international communist Progressive Labor Party. Together, we can fight to win a communist world. Join PLP!

After Elections: BK Forum

What now? Fight Back!

BROOKLYN, November 23 – "How many times have we been here before?" asked the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) singers in a new song they created in the week of the recent election. In the background of the song, a speaker listed countries where workers face growing fascism and ongoing imperialist oppression. At the end of the song, the whole room roared together: "The only solution is communist revolution!"

About 50 PLP members and friends gathered to analyze the impact of the election and growing fascist developments and to grapple with the question, "What is to be done?" Planned mainly by teachers and students, the forum was extremely interactive, leaving some attendees asking for more time to discuss the questions of the day.

Understanding fascism to fight it!

We began with a gallery walk in which small, integrated groups moved about the room, discussing a wide variety of articles, graphics, cartoons and other media depictions of current events and discussing how each item indicated growing fascism. Then the small groups combined to examine the definition of fascism and try to create a bigger picture understanding based on the different examples each group studied. After the gallery walk, a Party speaker called on us to fight back against the crisis facing workers around the world today.

Next steps to fightback

Next we returned to the tables and discussed a series of questions which moved us from analysing how the bosses have convinced workers to vote (and vote for Trump) to looking for examples of workers fighting back in recent times to thinking about what it would look like to fight for communism instead. In every group, people shared their own experiences and those of workers they are talking to. They took calendars of upcoming events and planned how to be more involved in the work of the Party. They took home communist literature, copies of CHALLENGE and PLP buttons. At least one base member told the friend who brought him that he thought he was ready to join the Party.. A young comrade involved in the college work gave an inspiring speech (see page 4) that recapped the college conference.

Old and young, new and experienced, our multiracial gathering ended on our feet, singing the Internationale together, looking forward with revolutionary optimism to the challenges ahead.

LA Forum

For workers' power, not bosses' elections

Continued from page 1

vote on and that is how we can make change. Workers truly believe in these propositions, so this wasn't going to be an easy struggle to win. Through a PowerPoint presentation, we were able to address the reality of how the propositions work and who they really serve.

Like all other forms of electoral politics, the ruling class uses them to keep workers tied to the system. Yet, they are often funded and promoted by billionaires and serve the interests of the ruling class. Even in cases where the working class has been able to create propositions and get them passed through the popular vote, they have eventually been overturned through the bosses' courts as "unconstitutional". Our presentation helped convince our base members there that even propositions won't bring about the change they want to see.

Join PLP to fight for the world we deserve

In the last section we led a whole group share out on the possible alternatives to voting. We didn't want people to leave the forum depressed, but rather empowered. Our base focused on the importance of education – sharing what we learned with their friends and families. Party members added that we can organize through mass organizations to spread the message of "Don't Vote, Revolt" with more members of our class. All participants left the event convinced that we could change society through communist revolution, albeit a long-term solution, but truly the only one that will bring about the world that they want to see. Moving forward, we will continue to struggle alongside our base to choose the Party for this fight.

Build solidarity with migrant neighbors

The following article is a reprint of a leaflet was written by PL'ers in the Mutual Aid and Community Organization Club and was distributed in large numbers at the Immigrant Rights March, which was featured on the front page of CHALLENGE in the 11/27 issue. The leaflet sums up the politics need to build a communist movement to smash this increasingly fascist system and is useful for talking to workers and friends in our organizing work.

The PLP Mutual Aid Club has been actively building solidarity with migrant workers, organizing clothing drives and donation drop-offs in collaboration with community groups at Floyd Bennett Field. This former airplane hangar has been converted into a shelter, but it more closely resembles a concentration camp, where hundreds of migrant workers are subjected to horrific living conditions. In the face of attacks from liberal fascist NYC Mayor Eric Adams and Donald Trump against migrant workers, our efforts have stood as a beacon of hope and support. Many workers are forced to sleep on cots in freezing tents, exposed to the harsh elements, with little privacy or access to basic resources.

At a recent clothing drive PL'ers brought donations and friends that lent a helping hand to our migrant siblings Floyd Bennett field. In addition to sharing hot cocoa, coffee on this cold fall day, along with resource flyers, we brought our communist politics and smiles to the faces of dozens of working class migrant families, many fleeing from Haiti, Venez,uela, Ecudaor, and many parts of Latin America who gratefully took donations and CHALLENGE. Look out for an article in the future issue of CHALLENGE. Look out for an article in the future issue of CHALLENGE.

Workers marching near Trump tower on 11/9 against racist deportations where we distributed hundreds of flyers. Communism means the destruction borders and abolishing racism.

All workers around the world are working harder than ever and are getting less and less of the value of our labor while the ruling classes rake in massive profits. We are robbed of our time and wages. Inflation and state sponsored violence is killing us and forcing us to leave our homes. The situation in the U.S. is getting more dire by the minute. Millions of working people cannot afford to put food on the table or get medical care. Many more are one paycheck away from being homeless. Capitalism is threatening to turn us all into climate refugees.

When workers are misled by racist rhetoric against our asylum-seeking siblings we forget one important detail: Capitalists (the profit making exploiter class) and their politicians don't care about any of our lives; we are cheap and disposable to them. Today, it is our migrant, asylum seeking class siblings. Tomorrow, it could be you and your family who are forced to flee the U.S. because of war, climate, or economic crisis. We are one world, one international class. Borders are artificial lines written with the blood of our class.The ruling class uses national borders to control their profits and take ownership of our labor.

The rulers put up their deadly border walls and guards to keep workers out, but the borders are always porous for weapons, money, and drugs. Imperialist bosses and their militaries know no borders and neither should we. When capitalist disasters or violence strikes it is we who always have each other's back, not the government or our bosses. We care for and defend our class with mutual aid, antiracist, antisexist fightback, solidarity, and unity.

Progressive Labor Party has been supporting Mutual Aid efforts in Floyd Bennett Field called Welcome Migrants. These are the seeds we need to build a better world—a communist world where workers own and control all the fruits of our labor and can solve the world's problems without money or racist and sexist bosses. In a communist world workers will be free to move and receive the benefits of society from each according to need. Together, we could smash these lethal borders once and for all. Join us!

It's not just Klansman Trump or Holocaust Harris, it's capitalism

Trump winning the presidency is a scary thing — for his divisive gutter racism and attacks on women's health, for his threat to deport millions of migrating workers and the list goes on. His motto is drill baby, drill and get the migrants out of here so "America is Great Again." He plans to force Medicaid recipients, many disabled, to work or die. Even so, Kamala Harris' presidency would have been a greater danger to our class. She has shown her true colors in her unwavering support for fascist Israel and the bloodbath in Ukraine, in her embrace of concentration camps at the Mexican border, in her stated pride that the U.S. is producing more oil and gas than ever before. She is ready and willing to sign on the dotted line for World War III.

Don't mourn Trump, fight back and defend each other

For the millions of workers duped into voting for Harris or Trump, millions more rejected an unhinged racist, open fascist and a covert genocidal fascist Harris. We don't deny another Trump presidency is depressing, but we are more powerful when we unite and fight back against our common enemy. We must raise the consciousness of those who voted for Harris, and of those who will soon regret voting for Trump, and rebuild the only movement proven to stop the advance fascism— the revolutionary communist movement— and break the chains that bind us once and for all. Join Progressive Labor Party!.

College conference

Building class consciousness gives hope

The following speech was delivered by a young comrade in the college work at a forum themed *new president, same capitalism what is to be done* held in Brooklyn NYC (see page 3).

I'm a student and PL'er here to give a report on the college conference

We started off with a report from a comrade who works in transit. Despite the struggles, he's been making massive efforts in spreading our politics and organizing other workers in the MTA. But why should students care? Students and young people are typically first on the frontlines of struggle and of war. We're the most active and we have the most potential, but we can't have a revolution by ourselves. The student struggle must be based on class struggle. As we've seen, when not anchored in the revolutionary class struggle, the movement becomes lost and aimless. Therefore the only way forward is for a student worker alliance and to unite our struggles

We then had a morning and afternoon discussion. In the morning discussion, we read and discussed a challenge article that showed the continued necessity of fighting for multiracial working class unity, for building a base, and building the party. We then shared our own experiences and lessons we've learned from each of our campuses,

In the afternoon, we discussed how the bosses have been clamping down and enforcing increasingly fascistic practices as a direct result of the student protests. As you may or may not know, many of our college's are directly tied to the imperialist war machine, whether it be to develop weapons and technology for companies like Lockheed Martin or to recruit them to the army.

We say to see through their lies and to recognize the power we have. To not join the bosses in their genocidal war against our fellow working class brothers and sisters, but to fight to overthrow the system. For communism.

A lot of people feel like all hope is lost, with all the various shit that's happened recently. But our work does not change. Our goal is still to overthrow capitalism. I think the future is bright. I think that not just change, but a better world is possible. And everything we do gives me hope, a glimpse into a better future.

Bolshevik Revolution

The Epic Black Sea Revolt

1919 Soviet Poster reads, "Long live the three million red army"

This is the part of an extensive series about the Bolshevik Revolution, published in 2017 in its centenniel, and the trumphs, as well as the defeats, of the world communist movement of the 20th century. We welcome your comments and criticisms, and encourage all readers to discuss this period of history with their friends, classmates, co-workers, family, and comrades.

In the pamphlet, The Epic of the Black Sea Revolt (1932), the French Communist André Marty reveals that the "war to end all wars" did not cease after 1917. (André Marty was one of the leaders of the revolt of the French sailors in 1919 and was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Pardoned in 1923, he became a member of the Communist International, and at his suggestion the Soviet Union supported the Spanish Republic against the fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War 1936-9.)

Capitalist nations around the world and white armies continued to besiege the U.S.S.R. The revolts of French sailors represented one aspect of an immense world-wide movement against the aspirations of many imperialist countries.

Contrary to a popular legend, the "Black Sea Revolt" was not confined to mutinies of the crews on the French warships sent to the Black Sea in 1919. These included rebellions of the French troops stationed in the Southern Ukraine and the Crimea, as well as mutinies of French sailors on ships outside the Black Sea and in French ports.

To every soldier, the armistice of November, 1918, had meant that at last the imperialist war was over! But towards the end of I918, the Allied troops, by virtue of a special clause in the Armistice of November 11, had virtually replaced the German occupation troops in the Ukraine and in the Crimea. On December 18, 1918, the 156th Division dispatched from Salonika disembarked at Odessa. French soldiers there were engaged in severe fighting at the side of Russian White officers against Ukrainian soldiers. The shooting and the cannonade were distinctly heard on board the warships lying in the roadstead ready for battle. The continual skirmishes that followed the landing, and then the departure for a new front opened the eyes of the soldiers, "In France the war has ended, but here we are starting it all over again against a people's republic!"

At the same time news filtered through to the soldiers and sailors about the powerful rebellions in France from men who had been on leave, from letters and from the new recruits about the workers' problems there: unemployment and high cost of living, a rising wave of strikes for bread and progress, demonstrations against French PM Clemenceau's military dictatorship and against the military intervention in Russia.

The French soldiers and sailors saw before them the very soldiers of the Bolshevik Revolution, whose inspiring revolution was rousing the masses of the people in France.

Russian and French Soldiers Unite

On their front, the Russian soldiers were committed to the practice of convincing enemy troops that they had become counter-revolutionaries. They concentrated their efforts on the most decisive factor, the French Army and Navy. These soldiers and sailors learned from the Bolshevik pamphlets—published in French—a remarkable knowledge of the everyday needs and demands of the French on the ships and in their trenches.

The men came to realize that the Bolsheviks were actually defending their interests. The Bolsheviks explained what the October Socialist Revolution was, what it stood for, and what it meant for the workers of the whole world. Soon, French soldiers in Odessa protested vehemently when Russian workers were being led to prison.

The occupied zone extended from Tiraspol, in the Ukraine, and skirted the entire coast of the Black Sea. Protests began with the soldiers refusing to march. On January 30, a battalion of the 58th Infantry was marched with the object of seizing Tiraspol. The 58th abandoned the battle and turned protests into action by taking the artillery with them and cutting its telephone communications.

On April 5, Odessa was evacuated. Whole units left the city singing the lnternationale. It became necessary to send the entire French army it back to France.

Marty was arrested on April 16 at Galatz (Rumania), together with three other sailors who had worked out a plan for seizing the ship. That plan was sabotaged later.

Soldiers, Sailors Rebel

A revolt broke out on board the dreadnought (type of battleship) France. The next day, the crews of the sister ships, the France and the Jean-Bart—the latter the flagship of the Admiral—gathered on deck singing the Internationale, and hoisted the red flag on the bowsprit. Almost at the moment when the red flag was hoisted on the main mast of the France, the troops which had been landed from the ships left the forts and made their way to the shore. When they arrived at the quay, the sailors singing "Down with the tyrants and the war!" flung their ammunition boxes into the sea. In the days that followed they forced the squadron to depart from Sevastopol.

Demonstrations of sailors and soldiers took place in the city of Toulon. The crew of the dreadnought Provence, the flagship of the First Admiral, refused to set sail for the Black Sea. The demands were: "Liberation of all the mutineers of the Black Sea, cessation, of the war of intervention in Russia, immediate demobilization." The government could not stem this fast movement except by a mass demobilization, by hastening to disarm many warships, and by recalling from Russia all the ships and the forces of intervention.

One fact is beyond dispute. As a result of the Black Sea Revolt, French imperialism was compelled to relinquish its stranglehold on the October Revolution. Then the masses of sailors, soldiers and workers rose in France—not only against the criminal designs of the French imperialists, but also against the official Social-Democratic leaders who had prostituted themselves to the bourgeoisie since 1914: the " Right" Socialists, the " Centre ", and the "Lefts" of the type of Paul Faure, as well as the trade union traitors.

For the international working class the Black Sea Revolt remains an example of what can be done by the power of the working class to demolish an imperialist state machine.

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

The cost of silence in face of genocide

At a local United Federation of Teachers (UFT) union meeting, I asked the district representative a basic question: Our retirement money, labor from teaching kids, is being invested into killing kids. TRS [pension system] holds over $112 million in Israeli securities. As an education worker, I don't want our savings to go towards the genocide of kids and their families. In these 400+ days, what has the UFT done?

This District Rep was conveniently chatting with other union members when it was time for him to respond. Eventually, he told me to call the pension hotline if I wanted to get information because he doesn't know. He didn't fail to mention that I might be wrong about "those numbers."

I cut off the gaslighting union mouthpiece by saying, "Your answer would've made sense if I was asking about my own individual fund. I am asking as a collective, for everyone, what is the union's response to our pension money being invested in genocide?"

He then attempted to discredit me, and the union meeting returned to its bureaucratic tedium as if there wasn't a Palestinian holocaust happening. I was seething inside, not at the union misleader—he was doing his job of misdirecting the working class—but at my co-workers who mostly stayed silent. To my co-workers' credit, two spoke up to revoice me. The District Rep eventually said, "He'll find out information."

The next day, however, my co-teacher initiated a conversation. "What you said at that meeting, I didn't know that. You're saying our money is going to kill kids? How is that even possible?"

The TRS invests in Israeli weapons manufacturers and cyber systems for the Israeli Occupation Forces. Why? The U.S. keeps Israel alive because that's their proxy for U.S. power in the Middle East. The U.S.'s position as a global superpower is shaky in the face of its rivals China and Russia. It's always been about imperialist power, not workers', students', soldiers' lives.

I need to remember the silence and blatant denial of reality I witnessed at the union meeting is a feature of increasing fascism, which is the capitalist system decaying. Still, let's continue to voice the truth and find the moments in our daily lives to jolt class consciousness.

Workers united will never be defeated

We held a press conference in the city hall park to launch our campaign for the Unemployment Bridge law. Around 300 people attended, representing a coalition of community organizations and workers' unions that support our cause. The proposed law would establish a permanent fund to provide unemployment benefits to undocumented workers, self-employed individuals, and formerly incarcerated people, similar to the benefits available to workers with Social Security numbers.

Several supporting politicians attended the event, along with members of our Progressive Labor Party (PLP). Our members energetically chanted slogans including 'United Workers will never be sold out,' 'This fist is seen,' 'Workers in power,' and 'From North to South, from East to West, we will win this fight no matter the cost.' We distributed dozens copies of our Desafío newspaper and made a new contact at the event.

Our club members understand that growing our party requires active involvement in community organizations, workplaces, churches, and other social spaces. We are committed to this outreach while promoting our party's platform at every meeting and protest. We believe that building a strong movement of communists is essential for our working class to achieve revolution and gain political power.

Conference inspires student to organize!

Early this month, I had the opportunity to join my comrades in the yearly Progressive Labor Party college conference. This past year has been a great time to be a communist college student and it was great to hear from people on other campuses. While our struggles are all the same, they unfold so differently on different campuses. Hearing from everyone showed me what I could be doing on my campus better.

A comrade in attendance shared that she used to campaign for the Democratic Party which resonated with me because I had a lot of faith in Democrats when I was younger until I saw their lies unfold in the years after the 2020 election. It was great to see this as I have been struggling with friends and family who still have faith in Democrats. Seeing this comrade join the Party at the end of the conference made me ready to keep struggling with my family no matter how frustrating it may get.

My group also discussed the rise in bigoted behavior from frantic liberals in the wake of their beloved genocider and KKKop Kamala Harris losing the election. As a nonbinary person, a lot of people I have talked to have shown transphobic behavior to me that I would only have expected from a conservative, things like calling me privileged as a man when I have made it known that I am not a man at all! In addition to this, anti Latin and anti Arab hate have gone rampant in liberal online spaces as liberals express their disdain for these groups "not voting hard enough" for them.

This transactional view on organizing is going to continue if we don't keep struggling with the people around us. On a brighter note, as soon as I came back home to LA I started organizing with the pro palestinian movement at my college taking the advice of some comrades from New York and leaving Challenge at my library. Some of the people I met even recognized the paper from when I had left it in the library in the past. There is still a lot of work to be done over here but I feel the most prepared and inspired to get it done than I ever have as a student.

Using CHALLENGE in the classroom

The day after the U.S. presidential election, I went into my high school classes ready to give my students a real alternative to the misery this capitalist system has to offer. The week before I shared a short excerpt from a New York Times article about the U.S. military preparations for war with China with them. One line from the article that really stood out to students said, "But no matter who wins in November, the United States will continue to prepare for war with China." My students had a lot of questions and insights about it. Some even came to the conclusion that no matter who gets elected, what is in store for them is the possibility of world war.

So when I distributed CHALLENGE newspapers in my classes and we read from the article Voting: The Big Con, many students were receptive to what the article had to say. One student broke it down really well. He explained that the U.S. as all other countries around the world are capitalist. Therefore the rich only care about making themselves richer. Elections don't matter because the candidates are just puppets of the rich. We had great discussions that day and I emphasized the importance of organizing and fighting back against all capitalist attacks.

This discussion gave me the motivation to invite students to an upcoming Progressive Labor Party study group, and three of them came! A few others let me know that they were unable to make this one but want to attend the next one. Being bold with a communist alternative is the only way forward. I look forward to continuing the struggle to strengthen the fist that will one day smash this horrific system.

In a lose-lose scam, what's the way out?

The CHALLENGE post-election editorial (Nov. 27 issue) begins, "In a lose-lose election for workers, Donald Trump's victory marks the toxic divisions within the U.S. working class..." The editorial mostly emphasizes the negatives.

In the second half of the editorial, the view becomes more all-round: "We must not lose sight that millions of workers who voted for Trump did so out of their hatred for the horrors of capitalism."

This is our opening! More people see that capitalist democracy does not give us any good choices. This system of voting for one of their candidates cannot solve our problems, will not construct an economy of common prosperity, and cannot live at peace with the rest of the world.

So what's the way out? We can pose this question to more people and spell out the answer: revolution and the communist path!

Glossary

Capitalists compete by any means necessary. Much like smaller criminal gangs, different groups of capitalists battle one another to secure territory, resources, and exploitable labor–the basis of their profits.They have created the state as a mechanism to manage and protect this ruthless profit-driven system. Through laws, police, prisons, elections, the military, schools, the media, and other institutions, the bosses have built a dictatorship to keep themselves in power—and keep the working class out of power.

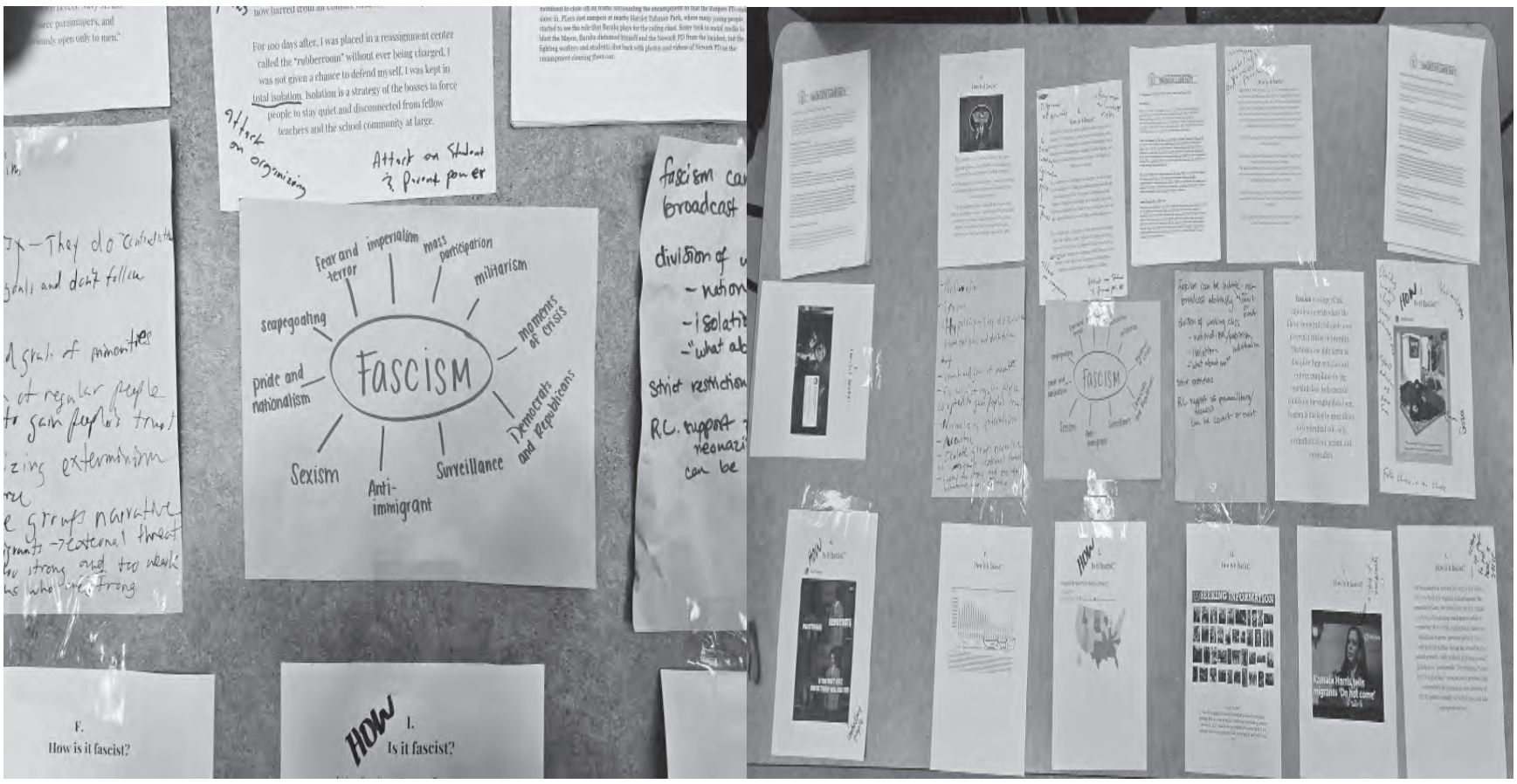
Fascism is a stage of late capitalism in crisis where the liberal democratic veil peels away to reveal a rotting dictatorship. The bosses use state terror to discipline their own class and enforce compliance by the working class–both essential conditions for waging global war. Fascism is marked by more direct and centralized rule, with intensified racism, sexism, and nationalism.

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalists, principally the multinational banks and oil companies (JPMorganChase, ExxonMobil). They're trying to build a multiracial, patriotic coalition to back U.S. imperialism and protect their far-flung profits. This is the wing that plays the drums of World War III.

The **Small Fascists** are mostly domestically oriented capitalists, spearheaded by the Koch, Mercer, DeVos, and Coors families, along with Richard Mellon Scaife, Harry and Lynde Bradley, John Olin, Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Rupert Murdoch and a cast of other billionaires. They want to cut taxes for short-term profits and are reluctant to invest in costly ground wars to defend the global U.S. empire. Their agenda includes a racist gutting of social services at home and a retreat from U.S. imperialist alliances, including NATO.

H.S. study group

Spot the fascism, build the fightback



Images from the gallery walk displaying memes and articles with the Democrat and Republican rulers' crimes. To fight fascism we must learn to spot it and really understand it to fight it.

Continued from page 8

Gaza "divides the working class through dehumanization."

Fascism: Our Definition

Students and teachers discussed what made each example fascist. Many people talked about division between workers through nationalism, racism, and anti-trans sexism. Others discussed the increasingly harsh limitations on free speech, and the growing anti-migrant racism. Members analyzed the PLP definition of fascism:

"A state of late capitalism in crisis where the liberal democratic veil peels away to reveal a rotting dictatorship. The bosses use state terror to discipline their own class and enforce compliance by the working class– both essential conditions for waging global war. Fascism is marked by a more direct and centralized rule, with intensified racism, sexism, and nationalism."

Communists organize to fight fascism

After the gallery walk participants read about communist fight backs against fascism throughout history. Students and teachers analyzed how communists fought against the fascists in the Spanish Civil War, the Klan in Mississippi, and genocide enablers today. Two of the articles featured PLP antifascist action: PL'ers beating up a racist shooter in Tupelo, Mississippi and a PLP teach-in at the Rutgers encampment against the Gaza genocide. In each example members noticed that the capitalist class, when push comes to shove, will side with fascism. From the "democratic" United States sending bombs to fascist Spain to liberal university bosses raiding protests against genocide, both Democrats and Republicans will tolerate fascism as long as it protects their best interests.

Rely on the working class

While bosses routinely sell out the working class, communists will never compromise with fascists. In each reading students and teachers noticed that communists are always committed to the fight against fascism. After the event, a few high schoolers, some of whom met at the event, gathered to discuss antiracist fight backs in New York City schools. Workers and students must rely on each other to fight fascism in our schools, our cities, and the world!

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

NATO tells businesses to prepare for war

NY Post, 11/25–The chair of NATO's military committee warned business leaders to prepare for a "wartime scenario" and bring their production lines back home, rather than relying on China or Russia, to avoid blackmail or sabotage — as former and future US President Donald Trump has vowed to restore his "America First" agenda…Dutch Adm. Rob Bauer said instability in global politics could leave businesses at the mercy of foreign governments, especially if war were to break out. "Businesses need to be prepared for a wartime scenario and adjust their production and distribution lines accordingly," Bauer said. "Because while it may be the military who wins battles, it's the economies that win wars" … The NATO military chief noted that 60% of all earth materials are produced in China, with 90% of the products also processed there…He warned that it would be naive for business leaders to believe that the Chinese Communist Party would not stoop to targeting foreign business in its country to disrupt the economies of potential adversaries. The dire warning comes as Trump has vowed to prioritize an "America First" agenda, which could include setting 60% tariffs on most goods imported from China in an effort to protect domestic industries.

Pakistani workers face off against fascist State

Al Jazeera, 11/25–In the early hours of Tuesday, protesters clashed with police firing tear gas and rubber bullets at a western motorway entry to Islamabad. "We are deeply frustrated with the government, they do not know how to function," said demonstrator Kalat Khan, 56. "The treatment we are receiving is unjust and cruel." The capital has been locked down since late Saturday, with mobile internet sporadically cut and more than 20,000 police flooding the streets, many armed with riot shields and batons. "From the scale of preparations, one wonders if the Islamabad Police is preparing for war," said an editorial in the English-language Dawn newspaper. "The city administration may have intended to demonstrate strength by sharing the plans it has made, but instead it looks like it is panicking." Hassan Akbar, Pakistan fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, called the security personnel deployment and infrastructure build-up in Islamabad "unprecedented" as anti-government demonstrators converge on the capital.

Israeli fascists look to win big

Foreign Affairs, 11/25–More than 13 months since Hamas's…attack, Israel finds itself on a roll. Since the beginning of the year, Israel has assassinated much of the senior leadership of both Hamas and Hezbollah, decimated their ranks, and conducted precision strikes in Iran. At home, after seeing his approval rating hit rock bottom following October 7, Netanyahu has watched his popularity start to rebound…Resisting calls for a truce, Netanyahu—with potent stimulus from his extreme right flank—is pledging to double down on his pursuit of "total victory"..Trump is viewed in Jerusalem as a staunch patron of Israel…Although the Biden administration sustained Israel militarily, economically, and diplomatically…it showed frequent disapproval of the way Israel was conducting the war, and U.S. President Joe Biden was often directly at odds with Netanyahu…By contrast, Netanyahu and his allies envisage that the incoming Trump administration will bring unqualified U.S. support for Israel. That assumption has given new fuel to the most expansionist…aspirations of Israel's ascendant right wing…

NATO preps troops for Ukraine meat grinder

LeMonde, 11/24–As the conflict in Ukraine enters a new phase of escalation, discussions over sending Western troops and private defense companies to Ukraine have been revived…These are sensitive discussions, most of which are classified – relaunched in light of a potential American withdrawal of support for Kyiv once Donald Trump takes office…"Discussions are underway between the UK and France on defense cooperation, particularly with a view to creating a hard core of allies in Europe, focused on Ukraine and wider European security"...These are comments in line with those made by the French foreign minister, Jean-Noël Barrot…he called on Western allies to "not set and express red lines" in their support for Ukraine.

H.S. STUDY GROUP

SPOT THE FASCISM, BUILD THE FIGHTBACK

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members from Brooklyn New York organized a study group about fascism on Saturday, November 16th. The purpose of the study group was to learn about how fascism has developed in the United States, and how both parties-both sets of capitalist bosses-have brought fascism on the working class. The event brought workers, teachers, and students from five different New York City high schools together to discuss what fascism is and how we can fight it.

Spot the Fascism

While there is a lot of talk about fascism under a Trump administration, PLP believes that fascism has been growing here all along. The event began with a gallery walk. Participants viewed articles, images, and memes posted on the walls and identified the fascist element in each piece of media. The media, among many topics, included statistics about abortion restrictions, deportations under both parties, and state sanctioned punishments for speaking out against genocide.

One political cartoon about voting read "How many women's corpses must I step over to vote for women's rights?"In regards to voting between Trump and Harris one student said, "False choice is no choice."

A teacher said that prioritizing the rights of women in imperialist countries over women in

Continued on page 7

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday,December 6

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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